

Via Facsimile No. 703-872-9306

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PATENTIN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A gas cooking appliance, comprising:

at least one gas cooking element, said cooking element including a control knob operable to regulate a gas flow to said cooking element; and

a gas lockout valve assembly in line with said at least one gas cooking element, said gas lockout valve assembly comprising a valve and a single digit rpm motor configured to ~~rotate an actuation shaft in said valve to~~ open or close the valve,

wherein said control knob remains operable to regulate gas flow to said cooking element during a power loss and without power backup when said gas lockout valve is open during said power loss.
2. (original) A gas cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a rotatable cam adapted to indicate a position of said valve.
3. (original) A gas cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 2 further comprising at least one microswitch in communication with said cam.
4. (original) A gas cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 3 further comprising a controller coupled to said motor.
5. (original) A gas cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said controller comprises a microprocessor.
6. (original) A gas cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one gas cooking element comprises a plurality of gas cooking elements, said appliance further comprising a gas manifold connected between said gas lockout valve assembly and said plurality of gas cooking elements.

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7. (currently amended) A gas fired cooktop comprising:

at least one gas burner;

at least one control knob associated with said at least one burner; and

a motorized gas lockout valve coupled to said at least one gas burner and establishing a gas supply connection thereto, said valve positionable in between an open position whereby said control knob is effective to operate said burner and a gas lockout position, thereby rendering said control knob ineffective to operate said burner, and

wherein said control knob remains effective to operate said burner during a power loss and without power backup when said gas lockout valve is in said open position during said power loss.

8. (original) A gas fired cooktop in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said motorized gas lockout valve comprises:

a valve;

a motor coupled to and in driving relation to said valve, said motor opening and closing a flow path through said valve; and

a cam coupled to said valve and indicating a state of said valve.

9. (original) A gas fired cooktop in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising a switch indicating a position of said cam.

10. (original) A gas fired cooktop in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a microprocessor coupled to said switch, said microprocessor configured to indicate a state of said switch to a user based upon a position of said cam.

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11. (original) A gas cooktop in accordance with Claim 7 further comprising a gas manifold coupled between said at least one said burner and said gas lockout valve.

12. (currently amended) A gas range comprising:

a cabinet;

a plurality of gas heating elements coupled to said cabinet each of said plurality of heating elements including a control knob operable to regulate a gas flow to said heating element;

a gas manifold within said cabinet and configured to distribute gas to each of said heating elements; and

a motorized gas lockout assembly coupled in line with said gas manifold, said motorized gas lockout assembly including a valve having an actuation shaft that is rotatably positionable to permit or deny gas flow to said gas manifold, and

wherein each said control knob remains operable to regulate gas flow to a respective one of said heating elements during a power loss and without power backup when said gas lockout valve is positioned to permit gas flow during said power loss.

13. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 12 further comprising a microprocessor coupled to said motorized lockout valve assembly, said microprocessor configured to sense a position of said valve assembly.

14. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 13 further comprising a display configured to indicate a state of said valve assembly.

15. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 13 further comprising a switch coupled to said microprocessor, said switch actuated by said valve assembly as said valve assembly is positioned.

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16. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 15, said gas lockout valve comprising a cam configured to actuate said switch.

17. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 12, said motorized gas lockout valve assembly comprising a single digit rpm motor.

18. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 12, said valve comprising a plug valve.

19. (currently amended) A gas range comprising:

a cabinet;

a plurality of gas heating elements coupled to said cabinet;

a gas manifold within said cabinet and configured to distribute gas to each of said heating elements; and

a gas lockout assembly coupled in line with said gas manifold, said gas lockout assembly comprising:

a valve;

a motor coupled to and in driving relation to said valve, ~~said motor rotating an actuation shaft in said valve to open and close~~ opening and closing a flow path through said valve to permit or prevent gas flow to said gas manifold, and wherein said valve remains open to permit gas flow to said gas manifold during a power loss and without power backup when said valve is open when said power loss occurs; and

a cam coupled to said valve and indicating a position of said valve.

20. (original) A gas range in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said valve is a plug valve.